

be saved by the foolishness of preaching rather than by reading the written page. It does, however, help every minister of the gospel in his preaching, in his pastoral work and in all his efforts as a faithful ambassador of Jesus Christ. It puts him in communication with other ministers, and in touch with other workers in his own church or denomination and in other churches, so that they may help him and he may help them. It enables the office-bearers in the church to become more intelligent and efficient as overseers and directors of the work in their congregations, and as members of the various courts of the church. No office-bearer who would help others or be helped by them to the intelligent performance of duty can afford to be without a religious newspaper. It is an invaluable aid to teachers in the Sabbath school, to workers in the missionary societies, bringing them weekly messages from the outposts and from the officers of our boards who have the oversight of aggressive work. It develops a spirit of beneficence by giving information as to the needs of a lost world and the progress of the gospel in all lands.

The ideal religious newspaper excludes from its columns everything that would taint or tarnish the minds of youth, and includes everything that would ennoble, encourage, purify and bless. It is a thing of beauty, an educator in ethics, in art, in science, in æsthetics, as well as in religion. It brightens every joy, comforts every sorrow, purifies and ennobles every purpose, puts good men and good women in communication with each other as they go forward to redeem a lost world. No congregation of Christians is fully equipped for Christian work until it has the best possible religious newspaper in every home.

An Important Gathering. The Federal Council, representing the Free Church, the United Presbyterian Church, and the Presbyterian Church of England, which meets every three years, assembles in Dundee on Nov. 13th and 14th. Rev. Richard Leitch will preside. Principal Dykes will read a paper on "Worship in the Presbyterian Church." Dr. Norman Walker will deal with "Co-operation in Christian Work." "Commerce and Foreign Missions" will be treated by Dr. George Robson, and Dr. Munro Gibson will introduce a discussion on "Commerce" and "The Use of Wealth," and "Industrial Questions" will be treated respectively by Revs. J. B. Hastings and Dr. Adam Smith.

Speculation. The desire to get something for nothing says the *Christian Statesman*, is one of the most marked tendencies of the present age. Its manifestation is seen in innumerable directions. Among men it is displayed in speculation, in the investment of a small sum in the purchase of an option; that is to say, the nominal purchase of property from a man who does not own it, by a man who never expects to receive it; in the purchase of lottery tickets, in the form of mining stocks, in speculative securities of various descriptions, whose movements on the market, both up and down, are usually rapid; in a thousand ways this expectation is seen—the expectation of getting something for nothing. Among women the same thing is observable in the form of bargain-hunting, hunting the counters of stores whose proprietors make showy display advertisements in the daily papers. Day after day these inveterate bargain-hunters throng the stores in the expectation that they are to receive something for nothing. It is well enough to understand that this world does not give something for nothing. The men who manage business in which speculative securities are bought

and sold, conduct their affairs on the distinct understanding that their business is to pay them. It may be illustrated in the following way: A and B. trade with each other through the medium of C who is a Broker. Suppose A purchases \$100 worth of stock on a margin from B, who resells it back to A or somebody else. After each purchase and sale the broker receives about 6 per cent, and very little skill in arithmetic is needed to ascertain how many transactions of this kind would enable him to absorb the money that A and B employed in the transaction. Gamblers and the managers of gambling houses are equally astute in the conduct of their business, charging a commission for all the bets made upon their tables, and their patrons have only to play long enough to get rid of all their money. So far as the lottery business is concerned, it has been proven that the lottery companies can pay all the prizes they advertise, pay a commission of 25 per cent. to their agents for the tickets they sell and still reap from 25 to 50 per cent. profit. The man who buys a lottery ticket does so with the expectation that he is going to get something for nothing, but he is mistaken, for the lottery company was organized for the purpose of making money.

Pan-Anglican Conference. The Archbishop of Canterbury has announced that a Pan-Anglican Conference will be convened in Lambeth Palace, the archiepiscopal residence, in 1897. It is over thirty years since the last conference of the kind was held. The conference, it is believed, will be invested with peculiar interest, in view of the overtures the Vatican has made to England on questions that have not been stirred since the revolution of 1686. The Standard commentary on the event says:—"It is of the highest importance that the Church of England should demonstrate to the world that Anglicanism is a power, a distinct branch of the Catholic Church, and that it is entitled to negotiate with Rome on a footing of perfect equality. It will be particularly interesting, it adds, to hear what the bishops of the great transatlantic Republic have to say, and to learn whether they think reunion with Rome would be too dearly purchased." Recent conferences have brought out the fact that while there are priests in the Anglican Communion who would welcome a union with Roman Catholicism, the church as a whole is still soundly Protestant.

The Church and the Saloon. Mr. James F. Dailey, of the Philadelphia *Ledger*, in discussing the relation of the churches to the saloon, before a distinguished body of churchmen, recently, made some startling statements which have attracted wide attention. Mr. Dailey had made an extensive investigation as to the members of evangelical churches in the city of Philadelphia, who had signed petitions for saloon licenses in that city. In the Protestant Episcopal Church he found the names of members of nearly all the churches. One vestryman signed five times. Of eight vestrymen in one church, six signed fifteen saloon petitions. One vestryman signed for a saloon directly opposite his church. An elder in one of the most prominent Presbyterian churches and members of several others were among the signers. Several large and influential Methodist and Baptist churches furnished prominent signers of saloon petitions. Church members should be in better business. In the highest courts of these churches the strongest resolutions are passed and rules adopted against the saloon and saloon abettors. Let the Church authorities bring the individual offenders to the discipline seat and rid itself at once and forever of this burning disgrace.